

Claims

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1. A transport system for small components (4), in particular electrical components, which are arranged in series in said transport system, characterized in that the transport system is designed as form chain (1) comprising an arbitrary number of chain links (2), and the small components (4) are accommodated in the chain links (2).
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2. A transport system according to claim 1, characterized in that there is provided one accommodation cavity (3) for each chain link (2).
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3. A transport system according to claim 2, characterized in that the accommodation cavity (3) has at least two walls (5, 6), of which one wall (5) is rigid and the opposite wall (6) is resilient.
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4. A transport system according to claim 2, characterized in that the resilient wall (6) consists of a central web (8) extending in the direction of insertion of the small components (4) and having resilient arms (9) laterally extending therefrom.
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5. A transport system according to claim 3, characterized in that the resilient arms (9) extend over the full height of the accommodation cavity (3) and on the outsides thereof have a bead (11) directed towards the inside.
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6. A transport system according to claim 3, characterized in that the resilient wall (6) consists of an outer wall (7) and two resilient arms (28), said resilient arms (28), at the bottom side thereof,
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being connected to the outer wall (7) and, at the upper ends thereof, being freestanding and resilient.

430 7. A transport system according to any of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that the outside of the rigid wall (5) opposite the resilient wall (6) has a slope (30).

435 8. A transport system according to any of claims 2 to 7, characterized in that the accommodation cavity (3) is designed as through opening.

440 9. A transport system according to any of claims 2 to 8, characterized in that the chain links (2) are pivotable about a pin (15) transversely to the direction of insertion in the accommodation cavity (3).

445 10. A transport system according to any of claims 2 to 8, characterized in that the chain links (2) are pivotable about a pin (15) perpendicularly to the direction of insertion in the accommodation cavity (3).

450 11. A transport system according to any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the chain links (2) are connected via two pins (15a, 15b) arranged perpendicularly to each other.

455 12. A transport system according to any of claims 9 or 11, characterized in that each chain link (2) on one side thereof has two lateral arms (12, 13) with bores (14) and on the opposite side thereof has a central arm (16) with a bore (17) for accommodating said pin (15).

460 13. A transport system according to any of claims 1 to 12,

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characterized in that the chain links (2) are made by plastics injection molding.

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14. A transport system according to any of claims 9 to 13,
characterized in that the pins (15, 15a, 15b) are made of metal.

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15. A transport system according to any of claims 12 to 14,
characterized in that the pins (15, 15a) project laterally beyond the lateral arms (12, 13; 12a, 13a).

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16. A transport system according to any of claims 9 to 15,
characterized in that, on the sides of the accommodation cavities (3) extending in the longitudinal direction of the chain, there are formed projections (21, 22) on both sides thereof extending in longitudinal direction, which have a width corresponding to the diameter of the pin (15, 15a) and in the longitudinal direction thereof are arranged at the level of said pin (15, 15a).

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17. A transport system according to any of claims 1 to 8,
characterized in that the chain links (2), on one side thereof, have two lateral arms (12, 13) with bores (14) and, on the opposite side thereof, have two lateral arms (25, 26) with axle-type projections (27), said axle-type projections (27) latchingingly engaging said bores (14) upon assembly of the links (2).

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18. A transport system according to any of claims 2 to 17,

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characterized in that the height of the accommodation cavity (3) corresponds at least to the height of the components (4) to be accommodated.

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~~12. A transport system according to any of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the form chain (1) comprises chain links (2) with different accommodation cavities (3) for different components or component stages.~~

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